

# The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 88, Abington, Pennsylvania 19001

Written by  
K3KUD - 1993



In daily operation since 1952.

## GRAND OLD HAM W3BBB/W3QQH

One evening in 1949 five hams met to socialize and talk about their hobby. From that meeting emerged The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club and the man who today, after 43 years of continuous active membership and service, is truly a Grand Old Ham. That man is Clinton R. (Jim) Spencer, W3BBB (originally W3QQH).

As Phil-Mont grew and prospered, Jim Spencer was in the forefront of the club's pursuit of the rapidly expanding "state of the art" in electronics and the transition to solid state devices. During this period Jim, and wife Elaine, raised three children (son Rick is N3DHI), and built a successful contracting business, all the while maintaining the balance necessary to give his family, business, and hobby his attention.

Being a mobile radio club, Phil-Mont has, through the years, provided and equipped five Mobile Communications Vehicles, ranging from trailers to vans to a converted school bus (one of the vans was featured on the cover of CQ magazine in March, 1957). The units were equipped for operation on all amateur frequencies as well as complete integration with police and fire emergency services, and served as the communications center for all services in SET exercises in Philadelphia; the Philadelphia Distance Run; Boy Scout canoe races on the Delaware river, a two-day event where both timing data and emergency calls were handled; Field Day operations; and as Communications Center at Willow Grove Naval Air Center for several Model Airplane National Championship events. The last unit, "MOCOM-V", is now in use as the Abington Township, Pennsylvania emergency service vehicle. Each of these units was largely designed, and completely built by W3BBB. [See exhibits 1, 1A, 1B]

Much of Phil-Mont's excellent relationship with both local and municipal emergency services stems from the fact that, in addition to his amateur radio activities, Jim Spencer was also a long-time member of the Abington Township fire department, and willingly provided his expertise and assistance in the procurement of equipment, and the setting-up and use of fire radio communications from its inception in Montgomery County, PA until a well managed, comprehensive system was achieved.

In 1960 Phil-Mont became associated with The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, and took over sponsorship of the demonstration station, W3TKQ. Combining his vocation and avocation, Jim designed and built a glass enclosed modern station featuring multiple operating positions, a back-lighted world map and external speakers which permitted visitors to see and hear the location and content of contacts. 30 years later, in 1990, Phil-Mont was still associated with The Franklin Institute Science Museum when a "new W3TKQ" was proposed.



Repeaters: 147.030 MHz  
444.800 MHz

GRAND OLD HAM  
page 2

This station, once again largely the result of Jim Spencer's application of vocation and avocation, has won acclaim as one of the most beautiful, best equipped amateur stations currently in existence. The console, featuring 7 operating positions, was designed and built by Jim, and much of the electrical and electronic installation was also his responsibility. The station was featured on the cover of QST with an accompanying article in July, 1992. [See exhibits 2, 2A, 2B, 2C]

Jim has served Phil-Mont 10 times as one of the four major elected officers, and still serves as a Director. He has also been the recipient of many club awards for his untiring interest and work on behalf of the club. As chairman of the Repeater Committee since its inception, he has been responsible for the building, installing, and maintaining of repeaters starting with 10 meter AM to the present VHF/UHF multiple input set-up, which has the reputation among both local and visiting hams of being a technically excellent and socially friendly, open repeater.

The maintenance of the main site equipment, as well as the three off-site inputs, is still handled by Jim, now with assistance from his son Rick, N3DHI, whose knowledge and ability reflects his "home brew" training.

Jim always finds time to monitor 147.03 mHz, to offer greetings, information, or assistance to those who use the repeater. [See exhibits 3, 4, 4A]

After 43 years of continuous service to Phil-Mont and the area amateur community, Jim Spencer is an active, driving force in the club, but more importantly, his reputation for cooperation with other clubs, his willingness to share his knowledge and abilities with anyone who indicates the need for assistance, is proof of his devotion to amateur radio. Jim Spencer, W3BBB, is indeed a Grand Old Ham, and is a major reason that The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club enjoys the reputation of being a progressive "state of the art" club and a great group of hams.

Based on the foregoing information and personal knowledge of a truly outstanding man and representative of the amateur radio community, we place Jim Spencer, W3BBB in nomination for the ARRL Atlantic Division "Grand Old Ham" award for 1993.